

**DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY
NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING AND PUBLIC COMMENT**

The Virginia Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) and the Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) seek written and oral comments from interested persons on the development of an Implementation Plan (IP) for the Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) to address multiple impairments in the Lower Blackwater River Basin and its tributaries. The affected streams were identified as impaired due to violations of Virginia's water quality standards for fecal coliform bacteria and therefore do not support the Primary Contact (swimming) Designated Use. The impaired stream segments are located in Franklin County and include: 20.0 miles of the Lower Blackwater River, 21.3 miles of Maggodee Creek and 27.9 miles of Gills Creek. TMDLs for these impairments were completed and approved by EPA in 2001 and 2002 and are available on DEQ's website at <http://www.deq.virginia.gov/tmdl>.

Section 62.1-44.19.7.C of the Code of Virginia requires the development of an IP for approved TMDLs. The IP should provide measurable goals and the date of expected achievement of water quality objectives. The IP should also include the corrective actions needed and their associated costs, benefits and environmental impacts.

The first public meeting on the development of the IP for the Lower Blackwater River Basin impairments will be held on **Wednesday, February 2, 2005 at 1:30pm** at the Antioch Church of the Brethren, located at 2996 Callaway Road (Route 641) in Rocky Mount, Virginia. The purpose of the meeting is to discuss the proposed reductions in fecal bacteria needed in the Lower Blackwater River watershed and to solicit public participation for the IP development.

The public comment period for this public meeting will end on March 3, 2005. A fact sheet on the development of an IP for the Lower Blackwater River Basin TMDLs is available upon request. Questions or information requests should be addressed to Jason Hill. Written comments and inquiries should include the name, address, and telephone number of the person submitting the comments and should be sent to Jason R. Hill, Virginia Department of Environmental Quality, 3019 Peters Creek Road, Roanoke, Virginia, 24019, telephone (540) 562-6724, fax (540) 562-6860, or e-mail jrhil@deq.virginia.gov.